

Rwanda, and Sudan. Yet another genocide was committed after Sudan, this one against Christians, Yazidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria by ISIS. The survival of these ancient communities depends on humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery assistance from the United States and other countries.

Last June this house unanimously passed H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act, so that our aid reaches the genocide survivors and perpetrators are held accountable. The Senate has still not been given the opportunity to vote on this urgently needed legislation. I again call for the Senate to pass H.R. 390 now and send it to the President for his signature. This legislation will significantly strengthen the ongoing efforts of his Administration to directly help Christian and Yazidi genocide survivors at risk of extinction.

Another critical piece of legislation for which I voted in support was the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, H.R. 5480.

Chairman ROYCE's Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act expands, and improves upon, our previous microenterprise legislation. By way of background, the Committee on Foreign Affairs has a long history in this field, dating back at least to former chairman Ben Gilman's Microenterprise for Self-Reliance and International Anti-Corruption Act of 2000. I myself introduced the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004, and a bill that amended the 2000 legislation, both of which became law.

In keeping with a deeper understanding of how to combat poverty and maintaining a needed focus on women, Chairman ROYCE's bill broadens the scope from microenterprise to include small and medium enterprises. While it is important to make sure that the very poor are not being neglected, small and medium enterprises help power development and thereby empower the poor. Thus I encouraged all to support H.R. 5480 and the House voted to pass the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I also supported H.R. 5105, the BUILD Act.

I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. TED YOHO of Florida, for offering this critical and visionary legislation. This legislation will modernize development finance to benefit the developing world, consistent with U.S. policy objectives.

To cite one critical component, the BUILD Act serves to counteract China's strategy in Africa, which uses development finance as a means to serve China's ends, even if that means propping up brutal dictators.

I thank Chairman ED ROYCE for his leadership in guiding this legislation through the Foreign Affairs Committee, and for his responsiveness to concerns I had relayed, relating to China.

In particular, I appreciate changes made to the initial draft of this bill concerning the denominating of future loans in foreign currencies.

While the International Development Finance Corporation that this legislation would create needs to have flexibility, including issuing loans in foreign currencies, we must remember it is also the long-term geostrategic goal of China, Russia, and certain other countries to replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

I therefore appreciate Chairman ROYCE's amended text, which adds, "Foreign currency denominated loans and guaranties should only be provided if the Board determines there is a substantive policy rationale for such loans and guaranties."

Beyond this, however, there should be a clear policy statement on the importance and overall strategic interest in retaining the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Indeed, earlier this year, China met with central bankers from 14 African nations to discuss the viability of using China's yuan as the reserve currency for the region.

This nonetheless underscores the urgency for creating an International Development Finance Corporation, which the BUILD Act accomplishes, while underscoring the need for policy guidance that loans in foreign currencies not be used to undermine reserve dollar dominance.

I further voiced support of H.R. 4819, the DELTA Act, introduced by my friend and colleague Mr. JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, of which I was a cosponsor.

There is much in this bill to recommend it—from prioritizing anti-poaching and wildlife trafficking efforts in the greater Okavango River Basin, to helping preserve the majestic elephant and other endangered species, to providing sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

One other aspect of this bill which I highlighted was that it enables us to partner with, and coordinate efforts with, the countries of Botswana, Namibia and Angola.

Botswana and Namibia in particular are two countries which are often overlooked, but which have made great strides in recent years towards becoming responsible partners. Both are, in the context of Africa, good places in which to do business, and should be commended for their efforts in improving governance. Their partnership in the greater Okavango initiative underscores this trend.

Angola is a nation which, after decades of civil war followed by strongman rule, is beginning to tackle corruption under new President João Lourenço. While it remains to be seen how far and how quickly Angola can go toward becoming a reliable partner and a country in which to do business, its inclusion as a DELTA Act partner country is a sign of confidence in the future.

I urged my colleagues to support the DELTA Act, and it also passed the House yesterday.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF FLEET READINESS CENTER-EAST IN HONOR OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a vital strategic asset for Marine aviation. Fleet Readiness Center-East (FRC-East) has been generating combat air power for America's Marines and naval forces for 75 years. The organizational history begins December 16, 1943, when it opened as the Assembly and Repair Department at Marine

Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina to perform aircraft maintenance for the air station and nearby airfields.

After distinguished and commendable service in the final years of World War II, the facility's name changed to the Overhaul and Repair Department. With the advent of the jet age, the depot continued to expand to meet the needs of combat aviation during the Korean War.

In the mid-1960s, the Depot specialized in Navy and Marine Corps rework and had become a vital source in supporting fleet operations during the Vietnam War. In 1967, the facility was organizationally detached from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point and placed under Navy management as a naval air rework facility. In 1968, the facility ranked as the second largest industrial plant in North Carolina.

The late 1970s saw significant changes and modernization for the facility. It was during this period that the facility attained the highest degree of productivity in its history. The Depot received numerous awards for excellence in productivity and cost reduction.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Depot received many upgrades to improve productivity, support and expand the aviation capabilities to keep current with new technology and workload. In November 1987, a team departed for the third time in history to Antarctica to repair an aircraft that had crashed nearly 16 years earlier. The facility was then renamed the Naval Aviation Depot.

The Depot provided assistance to the fleet in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Iraq with field team deployments to various locations for engines, components, aircraft, ground support equipment and squadron support. Since this time, FRC-East supported the War in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism.

Today, FRC-East has grown to become the largest industrial employer east of Interstate 95 with 119 buildings and 2.1 million square feet, spanning over 147 acres valued at \$1.36 billion. The workforce includes more than 3,900 employees, which provide aircraft, engine and component maintenance, engineering and logistics support for U.S. forces and 24 foreign nations.

On this 75th anniversary year, I would like to thank the outstanding employees of FRC-East for their continued outstanding service and support to our nation, our allies, and its Eastern North Carolina community. I wish FRC-East continued success for its next 75 years of support to our warfighters.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ED KIRKWOOD

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents from Butler, Pennsylvania, Mr. Ed Kirkwood. This Friday, July 20th, Ed will be retiring following over 34 years of commendable public service.

Ed has proudly served as the Butler Township Manager for the last 10 years. In this role, Ed oversaw the day-to-day operations of